

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A surgical thermally-mediated therapy for treating tissue comprising causing a controlled vapor-to-liquid phase state change of a selected media at a targeted tissue site thereby applying thermal energy substantially equal to the heat of vaporization of the media to said tissue site.
2. (Original) A surgical thermally-mediated therapy as in claim 1 wherein the heat of vaporization is in excess of about 500 calories per gram of the selected media.
3. (Currently Amended) A surgical thermally-mediated therapy as in claim 1 wherein the vapor-to-liquid phase state change occurs after ejecting the selected media in a vapor state from ~~is created distal of the working surface of an instrument having at least one media ejection port as the selected media is ejected from at least one port in the working surface.~~
4. (Currently Amended) A surgical thermally-mediated therapy as in claim 3 wherein the vapor-to-liquid phase state change is created within a patient's body ~~lumen~~ after pressurized ejection of the media from the at least one port.
5. (Currently Amended) A surgical thermally-mediated therapy as in claim 3 wherein the vapor-to-liquid phase state change is created at a selected depth in ~~soft~~ tissue after pressurized ejection of the media from the at least one port.
6. (Original) A surgical thermally-mediated therapy as in claim 3 wherein the vapor-to-liquid phase state change is created about a flexible working surface deployed in the interior of a body cavity or lumen.

7. (Original) A surgical thermally-mediated therapy as in claim 1 further comprising the step of controlling a parameter of the causing step selected from the class of parameters consisting of controlling the temperature of the vapor-to-liquid phase state change in the selected media, controlling the pressure of the media ejected from the working surface, controlling the volume of the media being ejected from the working surface, and controlling the rate of delivery of the media volume being ejected from the working surface.

Claims 8-17 (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A surgical thermally-mediated therapy for treating tissue comprising converting a conductive liquid media to a transient conductive vapor media having a heat of vaporization of about 100° C[[.]], injecting the transient vapor media into a body structure of a patient and applying electrical energy to the conductive vapor media before its condensation back into a liquid media thereby applying energy to the body structure ~~proximate surfaces of the vapor media.~~

19. (Original) A surgical therapy as in claim 18 wherein the body structure comprises a body lumen or cavity.

20. (Original) A surgical therapy as in claim 18 wherein the body structure comprises soft tissue.

21. (New) The method of claim 1 including causing the vapor media to propagate extracellularly in tissue when in a vapor state and allowing the media to undergo a vapor-to-liquid phase state change and release thermal energy to the tissue.

22. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein the vapor media collapses in volume upon the vapor-to-liquid phase state change.

23. (New)The method of claim 21 wherein the vapor-to-liquid phase state change applies thermal energy capable of modifying tissue.

24. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein the vapor-to-liquid phase state change applies thermal energy capable of at least one of shrinking, sealing, welding and creating lesions in tissue.

25. (New) The method of claim 21 including introducing the vapor media into the interior of a patient's body through an expandable member.

26. (New) The method of claim 25 engaging a body structure with the expandable member.

27. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein the vapor media has a temperature of at least 100° C.

28. (New) The method of claim 21 including controlling at least one of the pressure of the vapor media, the volume of the vapor media, and the duration of a flow of the vapor media.

29. (New) The method of claim 21 including applying electrical energy to the vapor media.

30. (New) A method for thermally treating tissue comprising causing a vapor media to propagate extracellularly in tissue and allowing the vapor media to undergo a vapor-to-liquid phase state change and release thermal energy in the tissue.